

**UBC SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM**  
**WELLBEING SCHOLARS PROJECT**  
**Summer 2018**

**Research project title**

Evaluating partner engagement elements of UBC Thrive, an annual mental health promotion initiative.

**Goal or Operations Plan objective**

Thrive is one component in UBC's efforts to engage students, staff, and faculty in thoughtful reflection, dialogue, and actions that support our mental health. It is the largest mental health promotion initiative at the UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan campuses, and is offered once per year for one week during the Fall term. In 2017, there were a total of 121 events with 82 partners and approximately 11,000 participants (on both campuses). As Thrive is evolving and expanding, there is a greater need to develop a more efficient and consistent partnership model for our partners across both campuses. Thrive has been evolving since it began in 2008, and in that time has developed a partnership model in which Thrive events and activities are hosted by individuals and communities across both campuses, with support from a central organizing committee. The Vancouver campus relies upon more independent partner involvement, whereas the Okanagan campus has been more active in supporting the curation and delivery of Thrive partner events.

The UBC Sustainability Scholar will support the work of the Thrive committee at both the Okanagan and Vancouver campuses to conduct a process evaluation<sup>1</sup> that looks at Thrive partner engagement, with the goal of better understanding the needs and experiences of partners, and to inform future engagement strategies. Specific partners to connect with will be identified at the start of the project.

**Outline scope of project and why it is of value to your organization. Describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable.**

- Help design and conduct a process evaluation in order to collect and synthesize existing evaluation information from past and current Thrive partners, in order to understand partner communication, relationships, and engagement in Thrive. This will be done with specific partner groups at both the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses, which each have unique Thrive partnership models, and will allow for comparison of approaches. The scholar might look at existing data, or will connect with partners for brief conversations by phone, in person or over email to collect information.
- The scholar will be provided with evaluation data from previous years (reports, some raw data from surveys), will receive support from UBC Wellbeing's Planning and Evaluation Advisor, and direction/support from the Thrive committee. This process evaluation is meant to support the existing Thrive evaluation framework, which will also be provided to the Scholar. Finally, the Scholar is invited to investigate other partnership engagement examples beyond Thrive, (i.e., City of Vancouver strategy) should it be helpful in making recommendations.
- Participate in the annual Thrive Committee retreat held on the Vancouver campus in May (date TBD) and be a contributing member of the committee for the length of the project. The Thrive committee meets bi-weekly however the scholar may attend on an as-needed basis. In addition they would work closely with the Thrive co-chairs, and they might expect to spend approximately 2 hours per week in discussion with the Thrive committee or co-chairs.
- Share findings from process evaluation and potential recommendations for an improved partner engagement plan for future Thrive actions on the UBC Vancouver and Okanagan campuses. This would happen in the form of a report, with a brief presentation at a Thrive committee meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/std/Program/pupestd/Types%20of%20Evaluation.pdf>

Submit applications here: <http://bit.ly/2DC2jpP>

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**Deliverables**

- A final report, containing a summary of completed work with recommendations, complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders.
- Summary of key findings related to Thrive partner engagement
- Final report or executive summary for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

**Time Commitment**

- This project will take **250\*** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between April 30 and August 10, 2018
- The scholar is to complete hours Monday to Friday, with a flexible schedule except for scheduled Thrive meetings (date and times of weekly Thrive meetings to be determined). Work space will be made available in Human Resources (TEF3, UBC Vancouver) and in the Wellbeing Design Lab (CIRS, UBC Vancouver) between the hours of 8:30am-4:30pm, and the scholar might expect to use their own laptop for some activities while other tasks may require a computer that is provided.
- Hours of work each week will be approximately 15 for a total of 250 hours between April 30 and August 10.
- Date of Thrive retreat is TBA however it will be on the Vancouver campus in May 2018 and will be between 5 and 6 hours.

**Skill set/background required/preferred**

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Demonstrated interest in health and wellbeing.
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset.
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Ability to work independently
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys

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